

particularly to specialize in horticultural work. Recently a new experimental station has been established at Melfort, Saskatchewan.

Through this well-organized system of experimental farms on the prairies, an exceedingly comprehensive study of all the problems relating to western agriculture has been made. New varieties of grains, hardy fruits and other crops have been developed, new cultural methods worked out, and improved families of live stock distributed. There is not a township in the Prairie Provinces which has not benefited from the work of the Dominion Experimental Farms System.

Expansion in British Columbia.—As agricultural development took place in British Columbia, stations were established at Sidney on Vancouver island, and at Windermere and Summerland in the interior farming areas. The station at Summerland has developed into a large unit studying problems of irrigation and orchard nutrition and disease. All the British Columbia stations are also interested in general problems of live-stock and crop management.

Illustration Stations.—During the first twenty-five years of the work of the Dominion Experimental Farms a vast amount of information of practical value to the farmer was gained relating to rotations, crops, cultural methods, and the necessity of the timely performance of the various cultural operations. Having this information for dissemination, the necessity of having organized bodies of farmers to act as channels for the introduction of these new practices was realized. To accomplish this, the Division of Illustration Stations was established, to co-operate with the farmers in districts remote from the experimental farms, and to carry to them, in a practical, demonstrational form, the results of the experiments and researches as made available by the experimental farms themselves.

To demonstrate the usefulness of these practices, crops, and rotations, illustration stations were established by the Experimental Farms Branch in the different provinces, starting first in Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1915. The value of this work was so strongly felt that this division is now operating 14 stations in Prince Edward Island, 17 in Nova Scotia, 21 in New Brunswick, 58 in Quebec, 17 in Ontario, 13 in Manitoba, 21 in Saskatchewan, 11 in Alberta, and 20 in British Columbia, or, in all, 192 stations. In addition there are 41 district experiment sub-stations, established under the rehabilitation program, which serve a similar purpose. Of these, 3 are in Manitoba, 29 in Saskatchewan, and 9 in Alberta. In carrying out this work, the owner of a farm co-operates with the Department, and, on a small rental basis, sets aside a certain area, varying from 10 acres to 50 acres, for experimental and demonstration purposes. In return, the farmer carries on such rotations, grows such crops, and performs such cultural practices as are deemed necessary by the Department to stimulate more economic production.

Live-stock development is important at 115 of the illustration stations. At the remainder grain farming contributes mainly to the farm revenue. Development of small home orchards is being fostered in suitable districts. A large amount of breeding stock of cattle, sheep, swine, foxes, and poultry is sold annually by the farmers in charge of these stations, and a large amount of seed grain and grass seeds of tested varieties raised on the illustration stations goes out to improve crops of the various districts. The field meetings held at illustration stations are steadily becoming better known. At each field-day the work on the farm as well as the crops and varieties suitable for the district are discussed. As occasion permits, live-stock demonstrations and judging competitions are held. During the year 1936 there were held 147 meetings of this nature with an attendance of 16,149 people.